

A 1 protector (15) with two vertical and parallel zones of weakness (65, 70). The zone of weakness on the left side (65) is illustrated as minute perforations, and the zone of weakness on the right side (70) is illustrated as a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than the adjacent material from which the envelope is made. Indeed, as illustrated in Figure 3, multiple types of zones of weakness may exist on one garment protector. In addition, the zone of weakness on the right side (70) extends partially along the length of the garment protector, thus illustrating that the zones of weakness need not span the entire length of the garment protector. While Figure 3 depicts only two zones of weakness (65, 70) on one side of the garment protector, it shall be understood that the polyethylene garment protector (15) may have one or more zones of weakness either on one side or on both sides of the polyethylene garment protector (15). In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the zones of weakness exist on both sides of the polyethylene garment protector (15) in exactly the same location; that is, both sides of the garment protector are mirror images of one another.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please DELETE claims 17, 23, 29, 35, 41, 46 and 51.

Please AMEND claims 1-7, 52, 55, 59, 63 and 67 to read as follows:

- A 2 Sub B1
1. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:
- an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment, said envelope having a front side and a back side,
 - at least one zone of weakness on either one or both sides along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, and
 - at least one stop on the zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from

inadvertently parting.

2. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment,

at least one vertical zone of weakness extending substantially along the entire vertical length of the envelope along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, and

at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently parting.

3. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:

A2 an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side,

at least one vertical zone of weakness on either the front side or back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, and

at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently parting.

4. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side,

at least one vertical zone of weakness on both the front side and back side along which

said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, and
at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness
from inadvertently parting.

5. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the
upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said
hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side,

at least one diagonal zone of weakness on both the front side and back side along which
said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, and

A2 at least one stop on the diagonal zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness
from inadvertently parting.

6. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the
upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said
hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side,

at least one vertical zone of weakness, extending substantially along the entire vertical
length of said envelope, on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be
parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, wherein said at least one
zone of weakness is a perforated line, and

at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness
from inadvertently parting.

7. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side,

at least one vertical zone of weakness, extending substantially along the entire vertical length of said envelope, on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, wherein said at least one zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than adjacent material from which said envelope is made, and

at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently parting.

52. (Amended) A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment said envelope having a front side and a back side,

at least one vertical zone of weakness, extending substantially along the entire vertical length of said envelope, on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector from the garment, and

at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently parting.

55. (Amended) A method of fabricating a garment protector, comprising:

forming by tubular extrusion an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment, the envelope having a front side and a back side,

generating at least one zone of weakness on either one or both sides extending along a length of the elongated envelope, and

forming at least one stop on the zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently parting.

59. (Amended) A method of fabricating a garment protector, comprising:

forming by tubular extrusion an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger,

forming an opening at the apex of the envelope for a suspension element of the hanger,

forming a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seal the envelope and permit the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment,

generating at least one vertical zone of weakness extending along a vertical length of the elongated envelope, and

forming at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently parting.

63. (Amended) A method of fabricating a garment protector, comprising:

forming by tubular extrusion an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger,

forming an opening at the apex of the envelope for a suspension element of the hanger,

forming a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seal the envelope and permit the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment,

generating at least one diagonal zone of weakness extending along a length of the